



National Aeronautics and Space Administration
and
U.S. Department of Energy

June 4, 2004

Dear Colleague:

This letter is an invitation to scientists and technologists at U.S. institutions to serve as a member of the Joint Dark Energy Mission (JDEM) Science Definition Team (SDT).

Both the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Office of Space Science and the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science have identified determining the nature of dark energy as a high priority science goal. A space-based mission to accomplish this goal has been made a near-term priority in strategic plans issued by both DOE (http://www.science.doe.gov/Sub/Mission/Mission_Strategic.htm) and NASA (<http://spacescience.nasa.gov/admin/pubs/strategy/2003/index.html>). NASA and DOE have proposed to jointly realize such a mission in JDEM.

JDEM has been conceived as a joint DOE/NASA mission to determine the nature of dark energy. An outline of the current NASA/DOE strawman plan for implementing JDEM may be found at http://spacescience.nasa.gov/admin/divisions/sz/SEUS0310/Hertz_JDEM.pdf. Although both agencies are sponsoring research and development (R&D) and concept studies in preparation for JDEM, neither agency has identified the funding required to implement the mission, and the launch date has therefore not been determined.

The JDEM-SDT will develop findings for DOE and NASA that can be used to help assure the optimum scientific return from JDEM and, in particular, to ensure preparedness for beginning development of the mission. The SDT will typically meet in person twice per year. The travel expenses to these meetings may be reimbursed for non-civil servants and non-local attendees. We hope that you will consider proposing to join this important group.

A current draft Charge for the JDEM SDT may be found at http://spacescience.nasa.gov/admin/divisions/sz/jdem/charge_jdem_sdt.pdf so that you can see the kinds of issues that will be addressed by this team.

If you are interested in becoming a member of this team, please submit a letter to the address below, including: (i) Your expression of interest in serving on this science definition team, (ii) Your relevant experience (a curriculum vita and list of selected publications is suggested), (iii) What unique talents you might bring to defining this mission, and (iv) What scientific investigations particularly motivate your interest in JDEM.

Letter proposals are invited from individuals, not groups. Collaborations and teams are not solicited. Letter proposals may be submitted by mail, e-mail, or fax. Your reply to this invitation should be received by July 6, 2004.

Please send your letter to either of these addresses:

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Phone: 202-358-0441
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Thank you for your interest in helping to define this exciting mission.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anne L. Kinney
Director, Astronomy and Physics
NASA

Dr. Robin Staffin
Director, High Energy Physics
DOE